

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 PPTE-00 CA-01

DODE-00 CG-00 HA-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

INRE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 DOTE-00 /048 W

-----083905 061155Z /23

O 061046Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9216

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS COLOMBO 0117

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: MISSING YACHT CRUSADER

REF: A. 77 COLOMBO 5106 (NOTAL); B. 77 COLOMBO 4938;

C. COLOMBO 4865 (NOTAL)

1. REFS A, C BEING REPEATED TO INFO ADDRESSEES.

2. MRS. MACDONALD TELEPHONED FROM AUSTRALIA ON 5, 6, JANUARY AND STATED TO ACTING CONOFF THAT HUSBAND IS ABROAD "INVESTIGATING" CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING LOSS OF THE CRUSADER.

ACCORDING MRS. MACDONALD, HER HUSBAND LEARNED FROM LAWRENCE A. PARDEY, MASTER OF SERAFFYNN (WHO WAS PRESENT WHEN CRUSADER SAILED FROM GALLE) THAT SECOND AMCIT WAS INDEED ON BOARD.

PARDEE IDENTIFIED HIM AS G.M. GIRLOCH, A 21 YEAR OLD MALE FROM CALIFORNIA. EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED GSL IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES IN ATTEMPT OBTAIN FURTHER DETAILS BUT WITHOUT ENTRY/DEPARTURE DATA IT IS UNLIKELY THEY WILL BE ABLE FURNISH MORE. IN INTERIM, REQUEST DEPARTMENT SEARCH PASSPORT RECORDS FOR AVAILABLE DATA ON GIRLOCH AND ADVISE.

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3. MRS. MACDONALD ALSO STATED HER HUSBAND HAD UNCOVERED SOME "EVIDENCE" WHICH CAST SOME "DOUBTS" AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE CRUSADER. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A CABLE SENT BY CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN KUALA LUMPUR 4 JANUARY TO MFA, OTTAWA AND TO THEIR MISSIONS IN SINGAPORE, BANGKOK, JAKARTA AND COLOMBO (FURNISHED US) WHICH SUMMARIZES MACDONALD'S FINDINGS:-

BEGIN TEXT -

"FATHER OF G.R. MACDONALD, MEMBER OF CREW ON MISSING YACHT CRUSADER, ARRIVED IN MLSIA IN ATTEMPT TO SOLVE MYSETERY OF BOAT'S DISAPPEARANCE. AFTER DISCUSSIONS IN LUMUT WITH SERAFFYN CREW HE TELEPHONED HIGH COMMISSION TO ENQUIRE ABOUT ANY NEW INFO. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION MACDONALD PASSED ON FOLLOWING INFO HE GAINED IN LUMUT AND TALKS IN AUSTL AND SPORE: A. SORTE IS WELL KNOWN YACHTSMAN IN THIS AREA, GOOD NAVIGATOR AND DIVER, B. SERAFFYN AND CRUSADER WERE CLOSE TOGETHER WHEN STORM ARRIVED AND ACCORDING TO CREW OF SERAFFYN, STORM WAS NOT TOO SERIOUS AT THAT LOCATION, C. NELSON, (MR. DAN NELSON, A FRIEND OF DON SORTE, MASTER OF CRUSADER, RESIDENT AT 29 SONGKET JALAN, SINGAPORE) HAM OPERATOR IN SPORE, WAS FRIEND OF SORTE, MACDONALD REPORTS. HE BELIEVES NELSON IS COVERING FOR SORTE AND THAT SORTE WANTED TO QUOTE GET LOST UNQUOTE FOR A TIME AS HE HAS CONSIDERABLE DEBTS IN AREA. D. UNSIGNED TEL RECEIVED DEC. 15 BY FRIEND OF SORTE IN AUSTL QUOTE HAVING FUN. SEE YOU ONE DAY UNQUOTE. THE TEL COULD BE SIGNAL THAT SORTE IS ALIVE. TEL SENT DEC. 12 FROM COLOMBO SUBURB (MRS. MACDONALD TOLD ACTING CONOFF SENDER BUT NOT AUTHOR OF TELEGRAM WAS TUAN KICHIL, 12/12 STATION PASSAGE RD., COLOMBO 2). IF TELEX TRACING IS CORRECT SORTE COULD HAVE SLIPPED INTO COLOMBO DEC. 12, SENT MYSTERY TEL AND LEFT AGAIN FOR PARTS UNKNOWN. REALIZE THIS IS STRANGE THEORY BUT MACDONALD IS PRESSING SEARCH FOR SON BASED ON THEORY THAT CRUSADER SURVIVED STORM AND SORTE SAILED TO ANOTHER DESTINATION." END TEXT
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4. AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION CONFF STATES BOTH MACDONALDS HAVE ALSO BEEN CALLING CANADIAN AND AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS IN COLOMBO AND ELSEWHERE PASSING ON INFORMATION RELATING TO THE CRUSADER AND ASKING ASSISTANCE IN FOLLOWING UP ON LEADS. (MRS. MACDONALD DID INDEED, ASK THAT WE ATTEMPT OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT TUAN KICHIL). APPARENTLY, MACDONALDS ARE NOT SATISFIED THAT CRUSADER WAS VICTIM OF STORM AND BELIEVES ALL MISSIONS CONCERNED ARE NOT ASSISTING IN UNCOVERING THE "TRUE STORY". HENCE MACDONALD'S PRIVATE EFFORT. HOWEVER, BOTH CANADIAN AND AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS, COLOMBO, HAVE DECIDED TO REFER MACDONALDS TO INTERPOL AS THEY DO NOT WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED IN "INVESTIGATIVE" ASPECTS THIS CASE. ALTHOUGH WE ARE IMPRESSED BY MRS. MACDONALD'S APPARENT CALM AND RATIONALITY DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS, WE STILL ARE NOT SANGUINE AT THIS POINT THAT MR. MACDONALD'S "EVIDENCE" CONCLUDES IN A CASE FOR A HOAX ATTEMPT BY SORTE. EMBASSY BELIEVES, THEREFORE, WE SHOULD ALSO REFER MACDONALD'S TO INTERPOL OR THE LOCAL POLICE.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT GUIDANCE.
WRIGGINS

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NNN

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